

Monday Morning Eye-Opener August 16, 2021

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brainfuse
HelpNow

HelpNow From Brainfuse Provided Statewide

The State Library is excited to announce a new online resource for Iowa's public libraries. **HelpNow from Brainfuse** is a homework assistance and tutoring service. The State Library has recently signed a three-year contract; we expect the rollout to begin soon as the service is made available to the state's public libraries.

HelpNow will be available at no cost to public libraries for the first year, paid by the State Library through American Rescue Plan Act funding (ARPA). Libraries that currently subscribe to **HelpNow** will receive a pro-rated refund from Brainfuse for the amount remaining on their contract.

About HelpNow from Brainfuse

Through an easy-to-use online classroom, **HelpNow** offers patrons of all ages state-aligned one-to-one tutoring, intensive writing assistance, targeted skill building, test

preparation, an adult learning center, a full line of collaborative learning and self-study tools, and much more.

HelpNow was selected by a review committee after a months-long RFP process. A homework help tool was one of the resources identified as a priority from the Online Resources Review Project that began fall 2020 and saw more than 130 librarians participate in surveys, focus groups, and a task force to determine the overall needs for online resources in Iowa public libraries.

Library Access and Training

In mid-August, Brainfuse will send each library a unique **HelpNow URL** that can be added as a link to the library's website. The email will include instructions and a link to promotional materials to help promote **HelpNow** to all patrons, students and parents alike.

The State Library is in the process of setting up several training webinars, with the goal to have front-line library staff participating in these webinars by mid-September to coincide with the beginning of the school year.

Brainfuse HelpNow is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act as administered by the State Library of Iowa.

[Read More About HelpNow From Brainfuse](#)



BRIDGES Sign-Up For New and Current Members

Several Iowa libraries have been anxiously awaiting the word that the **BRIDGES** RFP process is complete because they're ready to join the group as a new member library. And frankly, current members have been patiently waiting to renew their annual subscription, too.

Well the wait is over--a new contract with OverDrive has been signed. This year's process took much longer than expected, but now we're able to move forward with the next steps.

Joining For New BRIDGES Members

This year, you'll be using the same system you've been using to sign your **Enrich Iowa Agreements**. New participants will have until **September 15, 2021** to complete the [New Member Letter of Agreement](#). Then we'll be in contact with another agreement and to gather the information needed to set up patron authentication.

Your first-year [membership fee](#) plus the \$400.00 startup fee will be billed once your library has been launched on **BRIDGES**. Note the form linked above is only for libraries joining **BRIDGES** for the first time.

Renewing For Current BRIDGES Members

For libraries that are current **BRIDGES** members, renewing membership this year will be done using the same system, but a different form. And a different due date: please note that current **BRIDGES** libraries must renew by completing their [Letter of Agreement for Current Participants](#) by September 1, 2021.

New Invoicing Process, Too

The **BRIDGES Team** is also working on a new invoicing process. Instructions dealing with the coming invoices will be sent out when all that is ready. As announced last fall, your annual membership will be the same amount as last year. You can find that amount on the [BRIDGES page](#) of the State Library.

Update For ARPA Grant Recipients



Claiming Reimbursement

If your library received an **ARPA Grant** this summer, this is an important update. All grant winners are receiving an **Invoice Template** through **DocuSign**, **notification of this comes via email**. The **Invoice** is an additional form attached to the **ARPA Grant virtual envelope in DocuSign**.

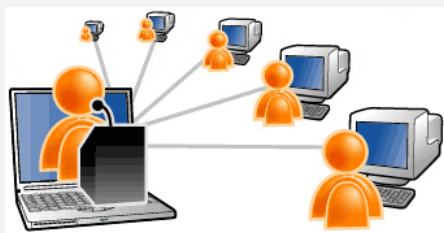
Grant recipients will receive this form called **"Invoice"** in an emailed link sent from ARPA Admin or DocuSign. Grant recipients should use the **Invoice Form** to request

reimbursement for your purchases from the ARPA Grant funds. The Invoice is the last form in the DocuSign virtual envelope.

Gather and scan-to-PDF all supporting documentation. Attach these files to the Invoice Form. You will have only one opportunity to request reimbursement for your purchases, so we urge you to wait until all items and invoices for your ARPA project have been received before claiming reimbursement. Please do not begin this part of the process until you are ready to claim reimbursement. Find specific instructions at the button below.

[Reimbursement Instructions](#)

This Week ...



Acting on Input: Surveys. August 18th. 10:00-11:00AM

This second installment looks at gathering community opinion through surveys, an often top-of-mind idea when it comes to needing feedback. State Library consultants Becky Heil and Bonnie McKewon will share tips for writing good survey questions to bring back best results. Whether using Survey Monkey or other products, get good feedback by first asking good questions.

Big Ideas Book Discussion. August 20th. 9:30-11:00AM.

The third title in **Big Ideas Book Discussions** this year is Reimagining Collaboration: Slack, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and the Post-Covid World of Work (c2020) by Phil Simon. This is the 11th book from collaboration expert Phil Simon, wherein he urges readers to fully adapt to a new way of working in teams, believing that the year of pandemic has shown us the way.

[Register in IALearn](#)

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